





THREE YEARS OF WAR IN KOREA

THREE YEARS of Korean fighting that began 25 June 1950 have seen the U. S. Navy, teamed with 10 other United Nations, fulfill its mission to gain and maintain control of the seas in the theater.

A salvo fired by the cruiser *Juneau* near Chumunjin on 29 June 1950, opened the U. S. Navy combat operations in Korea. Since then more than 575 Navy ships and 250,000 Navy men have participated in the United Nations

Naval Air War Box Score

	Combat Sorties	255,545
	Bombs (tons)	163,062
	Rockets	267,217
	Ammo (rounds)	68,608,000

action.

Since that date, Navy and Marine Corps aircraft have flown more than a quarter million combat sorties against the enemy. They have dropped far more bomb tonnage on the Reds than was expended on the Japs in World War II. Its warships have fired more than 75,000 tons of ammunition at enemy coastal positions, in the absence of sea targets.

Precise damage estimates are difficult to make, but Naval and Marine air and surface units are credited with killing or wounding an estimated 121,000 enemy troops and destroying 6,008 railroad cars, 405 locomotives, 47,334 buildings, 3,900 enemy vessels and 265 tanks.

The slower tempo of fighting in Korea during the past year has changed the mission of naval aircraft from one of primarily interdicting rail and transportation facilities to mass attacks on specific targets and increased close support of UN frontline troops.

IN JUNE, 1952, 380 carrier planes from Task Force 77 joined Marine and Air Force squadrons in smashing four North Korean power centers, among them the giant Suiho hydroelectric works on the Yalu river near Antung, Manchuria. In August, 1952, Navy carrier aircraft, along with Australian and USAF planes and the British Navy, carried out a two-day, round-the-clock attack on Pyongyang, North Korean capitol city.












Close ground support of front line

troops accounted for a large portion of the naval task force work and is one of the reasons why Navy-Marine combat plane losses to antiaircraft fire were 537 aircraft in the three years of war.

The Cherokee air strike, a highly coordinated close air support of front line troops was successfully introduced. This strike took its name from the Seventh Fleet's commander, VAdm. Joseph J. Clark, who has Cherokee blood in his veins.

Effectiveness of Navy and Marine close air support in the last years is shown in a record of one month's damage to the enemy: 600 troops killed, 250 command posts, 150 troop shelters smashed.

Damage Inflicted on Enemy

	Troops	86,265
	Bridges	2,005
	Locomotives	391
	Railroad Cars	5,896
	Tanks	249
	Vehicles	7,437
	Bunkers	20,854
	Buildings	44,828
	Power Plants	33
	Supply Dumps	1,900
	Vessels	2,464

In the accompanying charts are shown the credit and debit side of the war ledger. In general, these figures are based on preliminary reports from naval operational units, but in some cases reflect re-evaluation over a three-year period. They represent results from 25 June 1950 through 31 May 1953.

The charts show that Navy and Marines lost four of its planes to Red aircraft, *Migs*, in aerial combat and shot down 23 enemy planes, a few of them *Mig* jets and the rest propellered planes. Since Navy planes operate around the fighting lines and not in the Yalu river "*Mig* hunting grounds", the aerial kills have been few and losses to Red planes likewise. However, the 537 of our planes shot down by radar-aimed AA batteries

and other guns indicate the kind of war Navy and Marine aircraft have been fighting—low down and close to the firing lines in support of ground troops.





In the totals in the credit side are 2,005 bridges destroyed by these planes, another mission where AA fire has been costly. These planes have sunk 2,464 enemy ships, mostly of the small junk type since North Korea and China have no combat Navy.

Of the 23 enemy aircraft shot down in aerial combat are several *Migs* killed by F3D night-fighter jets with radar guidance and one *Mig* clobbered by a Marine flying a *Corsair*, the first jet credited to a Navy or Marine propellered fighter. Navy or Marine pilots flying in exchange duty with Air Force have bagged a dozen *Mig* jets in F-84's or F-86's while fighting around the Yalu.

THE FACT the two services haven't destroyed more enemy planes is due to two factors—being limited by U.N. command to flying around the battle lines and the lack of enemy planes there. Even though *Migs* are rated faster and fancier fighters than Navy jets, the F9F-F3D jet combination of Navy and Marines holds a decided edge in kills, with 11 Communist jets bagged in aerial combat to three of ours lost. When enemy planes have flown down within range of our jet fighters in their assigned territory they have proved no match.

The Navy's compilation of surface operations in Korea showed 4,069,626 rounds of shipboard ammunition had been fired, from 16" shells down to

Aerial Combat Box Score

	Enemy in Air	23
	Enemy on Ground	74
	Navy in Air	4
	Navy by AA	537

small arms. In its dueling with shore batteries and from mines, the Navy has lost 5 ships, four of them minesweepers, and had 73 ships damaged slightly in the two years ended June, 1952. In the three-year war period its MSTs transport ships carried 4,918,919 passengers and 52,111,299 tons of cargo, much of it for the Army and Air Force, plus 21,928,879 long tons of petroleum to help keep AF and Navy planes flying.